



from the desk of
REPRESENTATIVE PHYLLIS POND

Dear Friend,

The Indiana legislature just concluded what I consider a surprisingly successful legislative session for Hoosiers. Jobs and permanent property tax relief were the top two priorities achieved.

A one year delay for employers on their unemployment insurance premiums should assist businesses to hire new employees. Additional support was given to employers in the form of tax credits. Construction workers could also see new work with the building of the Illiana Expressway which would connect Interstate 65 in Northwest Indiana with an interstate in Illinois.

Two local highway projects are rapidly taking shape. The first project is the Maplecrest Road extension over the river, railroad and Highway 30 East. The second project is the Fort-to-Port relocation of Highway 24, east of New Haven, which is now proceeding quickly because the land acquisition by the state has been completed.

The voters will be given the opportunity to vote in November on property tax caps. The referendum will determine whether or not the current property tax caps are written into the state's constitution.

Your input on any issue is very important, so I want to thank everyone who has taken the time to contact me in some way or another.

Sincerely,
Phyllis J. Pond
Rep. Phyllis Pond



200 W. WASHINGTON STREET • INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
INDIANA HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

LET'S STAY CONNECTED.

STATEHOUSE OFFICE

1-800-382-9841

1-317- 232-9753

E-MAIL ADDRESS

h85@in.gov

E-NEWSLETTER SIGNUP

www.in.gov/h85

MAILING ADDRESS

200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

2010

LEGISLATIVE REPORT



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

PHYLLIS POND

PHYLLIS POND

STATE REPRESENTATIVE · HOUSE DISTRICT 85



CONTROLLING SPENDING



A focus I had this session was to make certain that there would be no new tax increases. Unlike Washington, D.C., I believe the State of Indiana is making prudent fiscal decisions. In my opinion, it is simply not an option to raise Hoosier taxes due to our state government's budget shortcomings. We first must live within our means.

Increasing taxes should never be our first resort, but rather our last. We were able to prevent new taxes from being passed this session.

"In my opinion... we first must live within our means."



CRACKING DOWN ON DEADBEAT PARENTS AT CASINOS

I supported the effort to help families collect some of the \$2 billion in yearly unpaid child support payments. Individuals who win a certain amount of money at Indiana casinos will have their names checked against a database that contains deadbeat parents who have not paid child support. If their name appears in the system the amount they owe would be subtracted from their winnings and paid to help support their child.

CAPPING GOVERNMENT'S GRASP ON YOUR TAXES



One of my top priorities this session was protecting Hoosier taxpayers. I first supported property tax caps in 2008 and am pleased taxpayers will have the opportunity to vote in November on approving this change to the Indiana Constitution. Constitutional property tax caps will ensure the permanency of the property tax reforms begun in 2008. I also supported delaying the Unemployment Insurance tax increase which would have increased taxes on more than 72,000 employers that own a small business that employs anywhere from 1-49 employees.



SUPPORTING HOOSIER VETERANS

I supported protecting veterans from debt collectors who try to collect from service members' disability benefits. I also supported legislation to ensure that all Indiana National Guard members returning from active duty service receive face-to-face care from a professional mental health provider if they need it to help with the stress of combat.



PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

I supported legislation that I believe will help Hoosiers to protect themselves on the commute to and from work. Governmental units will also be prohibited from denying a licensed gun owner their 2nd Amendment right during a time of a declared emergency. Additionally, I supported keeping certain personal information about Hoosiers with licenses to carry a handgun confidential.

INCREASING GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

I supported strengthening the ethics laws of state government. One of the major provisions is the mandatory "cooling off period," where legislators must wait at least one year after leaving office until they can become a registered lobbyist. Another provision lowers the threshold for reporting gifts to legislators from \$100 to \$50. This measure will help boost public trust in state government and improve transparency in the lobbying process.

